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REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated September 29, 2005.
Claims 1-20 were examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by McDonald et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,530,065, hereinafter "McDonald"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding independent claim 1, the Examiner has alleged that McDonald teaches "displaying, in a first of the plurality of regions, information associated with a netlist as a plurality of cell names". The Examiner cites column 14, line 61 through column 15, line 10, and Figs. 16A and 17 in support of this position, in which McDonald is alleged to teach displaying a list of electrical circuit parts used to create a design, with the parts listed in alphabetical order according to the part name, and an alternate list of parts that can be used and displayed on the screen if the user selects the "Select Alternate Part" button. Applicant agrees with the Examiner on this point. However, Applicant notes that the claim language "plurality of cell names" explicitly is associated with the netlist of the circuit design, and not to alternate parts that *might* be used in such a circuit design. This definitional (antecedent) support is important in subsequent limitations, discussed below.

The Examiner has alleged that McDonald also teaches "displaying in a second of said plurality of regions, a plurality of virtual buttons, a subgroup of which operates to commence testing of parameters of a set of said plurality of electrical functions, with the electrical functions included in said set being associated with a group of said plurality of cell names". The Examiner cites column 8, lines 39-48 and Fig. 17 in support of this position, in which McDonald is alleged to teach controls such as "Analyze a Design" and the "Simulate" button to allow users to test the designed circuit with the group of included parts and parameters. Applicant notes, as argued before, that such teaching includes only the capability of simulating the entire netlist whose cells are displayed as described above. In other words, the "group" always includes the entire netlist, i.e., all of the "plurality of cell names" as used in this claim.

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The Examiner has alleged that McDonald also teaches “identifying, among said plurality of cell names, cell names affiliated with said group differently than remaining cell names not affiliated with said group. The examiner cites column 13, lines 51-67, column 14, line 61 through column 15, line 10, and Fig. 17 in support of this position, in which McDonald is alleged to teach that selected parts/components of the circuit to be simulated are displayed in the “Components” sections in Fig. 17 and also displayed on the schematic shown in Fig. 19, while other parts not selected to be simulated (i.e., not affiliated with the group) are under the “Select Alternate Part” category.

It is particularly this last point that Applicant respectfully believes the Examiner’s position is not supported. Applicant submits that other parts which may be displayed in the “Select Other Parts” category *cannot* correspond to the claimed limitation of “remaining cell names not affiliated with said group” because both the cell names affiliated with the group *and* the remaining cell names not affiliated with the group are from “among said plurality of cell names”. As noted above, the claim language “plurality of cell names” explicitly is associated with the netlist of the circuit design, and not to alternate parts that *might* be used in such a circuit design. The claimed limitation requires that there be a capability to display differently the cell names affiliated with said group and the remaining cell names not affiliated with said group (i.e., displaying *two groupings* of cell names) among the plurality of cell names corresponding to the circuit design. No such capability is taught or suggested by McDonald. McDonald always simulates the entire netlist, and no such display distinctions are necessary nor are they disclosed.

Applicant’s claim 1 recites an invention which, by its recited limitations, is capable of simulating less than all the cell names corresponding to a given netlist. McDonald provides no such teaching. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that McDonald does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1.

Independent Claim 15, for the same reasons as above, is also believed to distinguish over McDonald.

Regarding independent claim 10, Applicant respectfully submits that the same reasoning also may be applied to distinguish this claim over McDonald. Although McDonald displays a list of components, each showing a visual outline of such components, no provision is made for

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displaying components, among the plurality of cell names, not affiliated with the group. In particular, the other parts which may be displayed in the "Select Other Parts" category *cannot* correspond to the claimed limitation of "remaining cell names not affiliated with said group" because both the cell names affiliated with the group *and* the remaining cell names not affiliated with the group are from "among said plurality of cell names" (i.e., which correspond to the netlist of the circuit design).

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that McDonald does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 10.

The dependent claims 2-6, 8, 9, 13, 14, and 16-20 are believed allowable at least for their dependence from an allowable independent claim. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald, as applied to claim 1 above, and Fan, et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0188902).


Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald, as applied to claim 10 above, and Kekic et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,664,978).

Claims 7, 11, and 12 are believed to be allowable at least for their dependence from allowable claims 1 and 10.

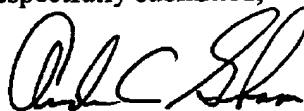
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Summary

Claims 1-20 are in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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